REMARKS

Claims 17-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 17-20 are currently

amended. Claims 1-16 are herein cancelled.

Request for New Office Action

Applicants respectfully request a new office action considering claims 17-20. Claims 17-

20 were not considered in the Office Action dated December 27, 2006.

Claim 17 is an originally filed claim.

Claims 18-20 were added in a preliminary amendment dated December 16, 2004.

Amendments

Claims 17-20 have been amended into independent form to include all the limitations of

the base claim and all intervening claims.

Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance.

Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to

expedite the disposition of this case.

Page 6

Amendment Application No. 10/518,079 Attorney Docket No. 042890

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

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